



# Manchester Public Schools



## What's Today's News?

### Verplanck Celebrates Black History Month!...



*Each February we take the opportunity to celebrate the significant achievements that African Americans have made to our history and culture.*



Within the walls of classrooms throughout our school these lessons are shared. This year at Verplanck we wanted to take the opportunity during Black History Month not only to celebrate these significant achievements but celebrate the resources of our own community. So, under the leadership of Ms. Rachael Hyman (Verplanck FRC coordinator) and the Cultural Events Committee (composed of Verplanck school staff) several special events were planned. Some of the events included: guest speakers from the community at our Monday morning school-wide meetings. These speakers shared their talents, stories, and successes. We heard important messages from a lawyer, a central office administrator, and a local news reporter as well as our own school staff. A highlight was our school social worker, Mr. Michael Reynolds, leading several staff members and students in an African dance for everyone to enjoy.



On Friday February 13th, the committee planned an Arts assembly. The assembly was kicked off with a motivational speech from our principal, Nicolas Jones Jr. His inspiring words will surely stick with our students. Our music teacher, Ms. Abbey Baker, showcased every grade level K-5 by leading them in a spiritual that they had practiced during the month. Students were also awed by the talents of the Manchester High Drill Team under the direction of Ms. Rhonda Philbert as well as the storytelling talents of professional storyteller, Ms. Jedda.

Our celebration of Black History Month concluded on February 26th when we took our student work and hosted a Gallery Walk at the Squire Village Apartments. Many staff members were present at this event to meet with families and celebrate the significant achievements of their children.

